(e) whether they have taken notice of the fact that any liquidation of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai's personal debts from the joint funds will prejudicially affect the minor;

(f) whether they have realised that any indiscriminate liquidation of the personal debts of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai will lead the Government to unnecessary confusion and risk?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) Yes, at present. The Court is taking steps to liquidate the debts.

(b) No answer is called for in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c), (d), (e) & (f). The Court is not at present in a position to supply information on these points. The matter is under investigation.

240. **Mr. George Chakyamuri.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they are aware of the fact that a vast number of poor people including helpless widows have deposited money in the estate from the time of the ancestors of the present wards;

(b) whether they are aware that the Court was not able to meet the demands of their dues till this time;

(c) whether they are aware that the creditors are put to much misery and distress in not getting their dues in spite of the Court management?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a), (b) & (c). One of the objects of the assumption of the management by the Court was to liquidate the estate debts. The Court is taking necessary steps in this direction.

241. **Mr. George Chakyamuri.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Court of Wards has taken under its control all the properties of the wards, Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai and his minor brother, including those in Travancore and British India;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether any requisition has been made upon Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai by the Court of Wards authorities to hand over to the Court the properties situated in Travancore and British India;

(d) whether any wilful omission has been noticed, by the Court in the ward in the handing over of such properties?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a)&(b). All the properties in the Cochin State have been brought under the control of the Court of Wards. The properties in Travan-

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core and British Malabar have not yet been brought under the control of the Court. The Court is taking necessary steps to bring them under their management.

(c) Yes.

(d) The proprietor has been asking for time for furnishing full particulars.

242. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether any complaint has been received by the Court of Wards from the creditors of the estate of Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai regarding misbehaviours, concealment of properties and fraudulent transfers, etc., made by the ward, Mr. Sankaranainan Pillai ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the Court has made any searching enquiry in the matter;

(c) if any enquiry is made, the result of such enquiry;

(d) if no enquiry is made hitherto, whether they will be pleased to institute necessary enquiry now at least through responsible officers, in the interests of the numerous creditors ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The petition contained allegations against the proprietor and suggestions for the guidance of the Court. On enquiry, some of the allegations were found partially true, as e.g., the proprietor was assigning away or granting on lease to his dependents for inadequate consideration some of the items of property held by him outside the State and not taken charge of by the Court. As is stated in answer to question No. 241, the Court is taking steps to bring these properties under their management.

The Court was also able to understand the motive underlying the complaint and affirm their former view that, if, as the complainants desired, the proprietor and the minor are left to themselves, they would be preyed on and ruined and with that some of those who have claims on the estate.

(d) No answer is called for in view of the reply to (c) above.

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